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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.   25X1A

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COUNTRY   USSR (Lithuanian SSR)

SUBJECT   Soviet Countermeasures to Voice of America
Lithuanian Broadcasts

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Voice of America commenced broadcasting in Lithuanian on 16 February 1951. To counter this, the Soviet authorities started to put out intense propaganda against the American action as early as 15 February. Through local broadcasts, the Americans were accused of an attempt "to bring peaceful Lithuanians into war". These accusations were repeated on 16 and 17 February.

2. In connection with the Voice of America broadcasts, the Communist Party Central Committee issued special instructions to local Party committees. Shortly afterwards, the secretaries of the local committees called conferences of Party activists and propagandists at which they explained the means of fighting "imperialistic propaganda". Several meetings for workers and collective farmers were convened at which the Americans were accused of attempting "to destroy the life of Soviet Lithuania", of provoking war, etc.

3. The Chief of Militia at Vilnius, Shostakovski, ordered the confiscation of all radio spare parts from radio shops and stores.

4. Prime Minister Gedvila declared in one of his broadcast speeches that all persons who listen to foreign broadcasts are agents of foreign states and traitors to their own country.

5. The Voice of America is being jammed and on some wave lengths is quite inaudible. The public found out about the Voice of America only from hurriedly convened meetings and speeches.

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